

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/046,683

Examiner

Mohammad Ali

Applicant(s)

SALTZ, IVAN

Art Unit

2166

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 7/12/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3 and 6-8 (Renumbered as 1-6).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying Indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 9/16/06.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____



**MOHAMMAD ALI
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is in response to the amendment filed on 7/12/06.

After a search and a thorough examination of the present application and in light of the prior art made of records, claims 1-3 and 6-8 (renumbered as 1-6) are allowed.

Claims 4 and 5 have been cancelled.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney, Manuel Valcarcel, Esq., Registration No. 41,360 on September 09, 2006.

Please replace the claims which was filed on 7/12/06 with new versions as follows:

1. (currently amended) A database management system for use with a searchable computerized database, comprising:
 - a database containing data items;
 - a user input interface for receiving database queries for specific data from users of said database;

a limit engine module, interfacing with said database for revising a database user's query for specific data to include data within a programmable range of deviation from said database user query, said revision being accomplished via a pre-selected algorithm without further user-supplied parameters being required;

a query builder module responsive to said limit engine module for formulating a database search query for database data within said range of deviation supplied by said limit engine module;

a query processor module responsive to said query builder module for processing said database search query formulated by said search query builder module; and

a ranking module responsive to said query processor module for ranking database data within said range of deviation according to how closely said data matches the database user's query for specific data;

a sort module responsive to said ranking module for sorting said ranked database data into descending order based on the rank assigned to each item within said range of deviation data by said ranking module; and

a user display interface for displaying the results of said database search query processed by said query processor module to the database user.

2. (original) The database management system of Claim 1, wherein said limit engine is programmed to expand a database user's query for specific data to include data within a fixed percentage of deviation from the database user's query.

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3. (original) The database management system of Claim 1, wherein said limit engine is programmed to expand a database user's query for specific data to include data within a fixed statistical standard deviation of data within said database from the database user's query.

4. (canceled).

5. (canceled).

6. (currently amended) A method for providing database search query results according to similarity of database objects to search query criteria within a programmable range of deviation, comprising the following steps:

receiving a database user query input for specific data;

revising said user query input, said revision being accomplished automatically via a pre-selected algorithm without further user-supplied parameters being required, to include data within a programmed range of deviation from said user query;

formulating a database search query for database data within said programmed range of deviation;

processing said database search query for database data within said programmed range of deviation;

ranking database data within said programmed range of deviation according to how closely said data matches the user's query for specific data;

sorting said ranked database data into descending order based on the rank assigned to each data item within said programmed range of deviation; and

displaying the results of said database search query to the database user.

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7. (currently amended) The method of Claim 6, wherein said step of revising said user query input to include data within a programmed range of deviation from said user query comprises expanding said query to include data within a fixed percentage of deviation from said user query.

8. (currently amended) The method of Claim 6, wherein said step of revising said user query input to include data within a programmed range of deviation from said user query comprises expanding said query to include data within a fixed statistical standard deviation of data within said database from said user query.

Reason for Allowance

3. The prior art made of records does not teach or fairly suggest the combination of elements, as recited in independent claims 1 and 6. More specifically, the prior art of records does not specifically suggest as amended by an Examiner's amendment.

The dependent claims, being definite, further limiting, and fully enabled by the specification and are also allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mohammad Ali whose telephone number is (571) 272-4105. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday (7:30 am-6:00 pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain T. Alam can be reached on (571) 272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Mohammad Ali
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2166

MA
September 12, 2006